>

Title : Regarding suspension of rail services for an indefinite period due to damage of rail-bridge over river Brambhari near Nalhati Junction in Eastern Railway.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (BIRBHUM): Thank you, Sir. I just want to raise an important issue of urgent public importance, through you, and I want to draw the attention of the Government, particularly the Ministry of Railways to this issue. Very recently a devastating flood has caused immense damage to our State particularly in the district Birbhum. Due to this devastating flood one railway bridge over the river Brahmani near Nalhati Junction station on the Sahibganj loop section of Eastern Railway has been badly damaged. It is an important rail route connecting the State headquarters Kolkata to North Bengal and North-East on one side and Bihar and up to Delhi on the other side. This important rail link has been disconnected due to damage caused to that railway bridge because of the floods.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is your demand?

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Sir, I am just coming to that. All passenger services and freight services have been suspended since then. It is causing immense suffering to the people of that area. The essential commodities are not being transported by that route. I, therefore, urge upon the Government, particularly the Ministry of Railways, through you, that they should take immediate and appropriate measures for damage control and restoration of railway services − both passenger and freight services − on that route. This is my demand and I hope that the government would take appropriate action in this regard. Thank you.